

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO\*

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From some editorial notes: \*

... *Thank God!*—With the deepest and most profound reverence, one may well say, *Thank God!* The legislature has adjourned *sine die*! Fortunately no harm has been done so far as the relations of the physician to the public are concerned, and the standards required for eligibility to practice medicine within the state remain unchanged. The more than dangerous antivaccination bill, which was passed by both houses, was vetoed by the Governor, of course. Assembly Bill No. 267, which amended the present medical law practically out of existence. . . .

... Assembly Bill No. 1164, which amended the same law in the section defining the practice of medicine in such a way as to permit any pharmacist to practice medicine or surgery, was, on the same day, refused passage by a vote of 13 to 34. The two bills representing the very acme of superlative legislative asininity, the bills creating a board of examiners of "naturopathy" (?), died on the file. . . .

... For all of these things let us be thankful, and for that we do not have to be watchful for another two years, let us unite in saying, *Thank God!* The legislature has adjourned! But what an ironical commentary on the venality of the men we elect to frame our laws!

... *The Panama Canal Commission.*—Dr. C. A. L. Reed of Cincinnati has recently returned from his trip of inspection to the "Canal Zone" and has submitted his report, which appears in full in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, March 11, 1905. . . .

... It was not so much the Chagres River that defeated the French company in its efforts, as it was the little mosquito, carrying yellow fever and estivo-autumnal malaria from victim to victim. In Cuba, Colonel Gorgas has shown what he can do to put to rout these pests if he is given a free hand. To trammel and tie down such a man when the issue is one of thousands of lives and millions on millions of dollars—not to speak of the reputation of a country and its president. . . .

... By all means, Mr. Roosevelt, do away with your foolish "commission," and let the men who have the brains and the ability dig the ditch. . . .

... *Have We Won the Fight?*—The journal takes considerable pleasure in publishing, on page 103, the full statement of a newly organized "Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry" of the American Medical Association. . . .

... Of course the very idea that the criticisms published in your journal may have had anything to do with this latest action of the trustees of the American Medical Association is not to be found in the editorial; that would be a degree of broadmindedness hardly to be expected, under the circumstances; the child seldom kisses the hand that spans it. . . .

... In a letter from a friend in New York, very recently received, appeared the following sentences, which we beg permission to quote: "I do not know how far you are acquainted with what is going on below the surface in the American Medical Association. I am myself not in a position to get very much information, but I know enough to be able to tell you positively that you are not going to win in your fight for the purification of the advertising pages of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*—for the good and sufficient reason that you have won it already! . . .

\* This column aims to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.

From an article on "*Report on an Epidemic of Diphtheria*" by Ray Lyman Wilbur, M. D., Stanford University:

It is my aim to present to you in this paper a brief report on forty-three cases of diphtheria that recently came under my observation, and also to outline the methods used to prevent the spread of the disease, particularly by the prophylactic injection of antitoxin.

From an article on "*Postoperative Ventral Hernia—Its Causes and Prevention*" by C. George Bull, M. D., Alameda:

That hernia of the abdominal wall may follow celiotomy is too well known to require more than a bare statement. Its frequency varying from one per cent in clean cases to between 20 and 25 per cent in septic cases is very suggestive. Let us first, however, examine into its more frequent causes and we shall then be in a better position to determine how to prevent it. . . .

From medical society reports:

*Alameda County.*—The program arranged for the evening consisted of a symposium on infant feeding, as follows: "Breast Feeding," Dr. Dudley Smith; "Home Modification of Cow's Milk," Dr. Charles A. Dukes; "Proprietary Foods," Dr. Hubert N. Rowell. . . .

*San Francisco County.*—The regular meeting for the month of March was held in the parlors of the Y. M. C. A. on the 14th, the meeting being called to order by the president, Dr. Emmet Rixford. Dr. Herbert C. Moffitt read a paper on "Clinical Observations in Nerve Syphilis," which was discussed by Doctors Montgomery, Power, and others. Dr. William Fitch Cheney read a paper on "Tubercular Meningitis with Report of Three Cases," which was generally discussed. . . .

*San Joaquin Valley Medical Society.*—... Dr. McClelland of Los Banos sent a splendid paper the subject of which was: "Old-Fashioned Remedies," in which he urged the profession to be better students of the materia medica, and to formulate their own prescriptions rather than to use so many ready-made and proprietary mixtures, said to contain this or that and to cure a number of different diseases. It was greatly enjoyed by all and freely discussed. . . .

From an article on "*Alcoholics*" by Charles Anderson, M. D., Santa Barbara:

The discussion of the use of alcohol in medicine is so complicated by the contention of the warring elements, vested interests on one side and the religio-politico-ethical opinions on the other, that it is almost a dangerous proceeding to attack the question; for one side or the other is almost sure to raise the cry of interest, or the charge that the party has been influenced by unworthy motives. Unfortunately the same state of affairs seems to have arisen within the medical profession as exists without, if the discussions in some of the journals are to be taken as an index. The organization of medical temperance societies shows that at least one side has taken a decided stand on a subject that, scientifically, is still *sub judice*.

What we want in the consideration of this subject are facts, scientifically determined facts, not arguments. The latter, most unfortunately, are what we have most of on both sides of the question. . . .

From an article on "*Uncinariasis, with Report of Seven Cases*" by Herbert Gunn, M. D., San Francisco:

Uncinariasis or ankylostomiasis, known as hook-worm disease, Egyptian chlorosis, brickburners' anemia, miners' anemia, tunnel disease, etc., until recently believed to be endemic only in tropical countries, is now known to be widely distributed throughout Germany, France, northern Italy, southern United States, South America, etc. . . .